

CLAIMS

5 1. An accessory for transmitting signals, comprising:
a receptacle that accepts signals of a first format from a computing unit;
a converter, coupled to said receptacle, which converts said signals of a first
format to signals of a second format; and
an aperture, coupled to said converter, which transmits said signals of said
10 second format, said aperture being further coupled to a resilient element that extends
said accessory from a compressed state, said extension influencing transmission of said
signals of a second format.

15 2. The accessory of claim 1 wherein said signals of a first format are in
accordance with a universal serial bus protocol.

 3. The accessory of claim 1 wherein said aperture is an antenna.

20 4. The accessory of claim 3 wherein said signals of a second format are in
accordance with an IEEE 802.11B protocol.

 5. The accessory of claim 3 wherein said signals of a second formatted are in
accordance with a Bluetooth protocol.

25 6. The accessory of claim 3 wherein said antenna provides gain that is increased
in some directions and decreased in other directions.

 7. The accessory of claim 1 further comprising an infrared modulator coupled to
said converter and said aperture.

30 8. The accessory of claim 1 further comprising a projector, coupled to said
converter, that projects images through said aperture.

9. The accessory of claim 1 wherein said resilient element is a spring.

10. The accessory of claim 1 wherein said accessory further comprises a latch
5 which holds said resilient element in a compressed position.

11. The accessory of claim 1 further comprising a lamp which illuminates when
said accessory is in an extended position.

10 12. An accessory to a computing unit, comprising:
a converter which converts signals of a first format to signals of a second format;
an aperture coupled to said converter, which transmits said signals of said second
format, and
a spring, disposed between said aperture and said converter for controlling
15 coupling of said signals of said first format to said converter.

13. The accessory of claim 12 wherein said signals of said first format are
formatted in accordance with a universal serial bus protocol.

20 14. The accessory of claim 12 wherein said aperture is an antenna.

15. The accessory of claim 14 wherein said antenna transmits signals formatted
in accordance with an IEEE 802.11B protocol.

25 16. The accessory of claim 14 wherein said second format is in accordance with
a Bluetooth protocol.

17. The accessory of claim 14 wherein said antenna provides gain that is greater
in some directions and lesser in other directions.

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18. The accessory of claim 12 further comprising an infrared demodulator
coupled between said aperture and said converter.

19. The accessory of claim 12, further comprising a latch which hinders movement of said spring.

5 20. An accessory that receives signals and conveys said signals to a portable computing unit, comprising:

 a receptacle adapted to convey signals of a first format from said accessory to said portable computing unit;

 a converter, coupled to said receptacle, which converts signals of a second
10 format to said first format;

 an aperture, coupled to said converter, which receives said signals of said second format; and

 a resilient element having a first end coupled to said converter, said resilient element having a second end coupled to one of said receptacle and said aperture.

15 21. The accessory of claim 20 wherein said signals of a first format accord with a universal serial bus protocol.

 22. The accessory of claim 20 wherein said aperture is an antenna.

20 23. The accessory of claim 22 wherein said second signals are formatted in accordance with one of a Bluetooth and an IEEE 802.11B protocol.

25 24. The accessory of claim 22 wherein said antenna provides increased gain in at least one direction and reduced gain in at least one other direction.

 25. The accessory of claim 20 wherein said converter is an infrared demodulator coupled to said aperture and to said converter.

30 26. The accessory of claim 20 wherein signals of said first format are optical signals, and wherein said second signals are in an electronic format that represents said optical signals.

27. The accessory of claim 20 wherein said resilient element is a spring.

28. The accessory of claim 27 further comprising a latch which hinders
5 movement of said spring.

29. In a communications accessory, a method for transmitting information from
a computer coupled to said communications accessory, comprising:

10 extending said communications accessory from a channel, said extension
causing said communications accessory to become active;
said communications accessory receiving information using a first format;
said communications accessory converting said information to a second format;
and
15 said communications accessory transmitting said information using said second
format.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said first format is in accordance with a
universal serial bus protocol.

20 31. The method of claim 29 wherein said second format is in accordance with a
Bluetooth protocol.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein said second format is in accordance with
an IEEE 802.11B protocol.

25 33. The method of claim 29 wherein said transmitting step is accomplished by
way of an antenna operating at a radio frequency.

30 34. The method of claim 29 wherein said transmitting step is accomplished by
way of a source that transmits an infrared signal.

35. The method of claim 29 wherein said transmitting step is accomplished by way of transmitting optical information.

5 36. The method of claim 36 wherein said optical radiation is displayed on an external surface.

37. The method of claim 29 wherein said extending action includes extending a spring from a compressed state.

10 38. The method of claim 29 wherein said extending action includes extending a resilient element from within said channel.

15 39. The method of claim 29 wherein said extending action is followed by unlatching said communications accessory, thereby actuating said communications accessory from a compressed to an extended position.

40. The method of claim 29 wherein said extending action permits power to couple to said communications accessory.

20 41. The method of claim 29 wherein said extending action permits said communications accessory to accept data from said computer coupled to said communications accessory.

25 42. The method of claim 41 wherein said extending action additionally permits said computer transmit information to said communications accessory.

43. The method of claim 29 additionally comprising illuminating a lamp within said communications accessory.

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44. In a communications accessory, a method for transmitting information from a computer coupled to said communications accessory, comprising:

extending said communications accessory from a channel, said extending action resulting in bringing a transmission line element to couple with an antenna;

5 said communications accessory receiving information encoded in a first format;

said communications accessory converting said information encoded in a first format to a second format; and

said communications accessory transmitting said information using said second format.

10 45. The method of claim 44 wherein said first format is in accordance with a universal serial bus protocol.

15 46. The method of claim 42 wherein said transmitting step is performed using an antenna that operates at a radio frequency.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein said second format is in accordance with an 802.11B protocol.

20 48. The method of claim 46 wherein said second format is in accordance with a Bluetooth protocol.

49. The method of claim 46 wherein said antenna provides increased gain in certain directions and decreased gain in other directions.

25 50. An accessory that transmits signals, comprising:
means for receiving information in a first format;
means for converting said information from said first format to a second format;
means for transmitting information using said second format;
30 means for extending said accessory from a computing device, said means for extending said accessory influencing said means for transmitting.